

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-11 and 17-18 previously presented for examination remain in the application. Claims 1 and 18 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added.

Claims 1 and 3-11 have been allowed. Claim 1 has been amended to correct a minor informality.

Claims 18-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being considered to be unpatentable over Chen in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,995,415 to Kuo et al. ("Kuo").

Claim 18 includes the limitations

means for partitioning a memory array into a fixed first partition and a variable second partition to enable multiple operations to be performed on the memory array at the same time; and

means for monitoring the operations performed on the memory array, the means for monitoring including a register to provide status information for at least the first and second partitions, the status register being responsive to a memory address associated with one of the first and second partitions to indicate a status of the addressed partition.

(Claim 18)(Emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that Chen fails to teach or suggest the claimed status register as argued in the previous response. The combination of Kuo with Chen, were such a combination to be made, does not remedy the deficiencies of Chen. Kuo also fails to teach or suggest the claimed status register that indicates a status of one of first and second partitions depending on an address.

For at least this reason, claim 18 should be found to be patentably distinguished over Chen and Kuo, alone or in combination.

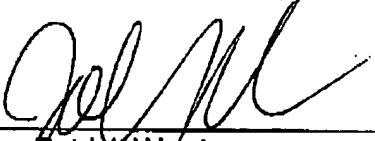
Claim 19 depends from and further limits claim 18 and thus, should be found to be allowable for at least the same reasons.

Based on the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that the applicable objections and rejections have been overcome, and claims 1, 3-11 and 18-19 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner disagrees or believes that further discussion will expedite prosecution of this case, the examiner is invited to telephone applicants' representative Cynthia Thomas Faatz at (408) 765-2057 or (530) 268-7347.

If there are any charges due, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2668.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 2, 2005

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